



Phoenix Area Indian Health Service
Office of Environmental Health & Engineering
Eastern Arizona District Office
5448 S. White Mountain Blvd. Suite 220
Lakeside, Arizona 85929

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James Carter, PE
District Engineer
5448 S. White Mountain Blvd., Ste 220
Lakeside, AZ 85929
(928) 537-0578
James.carter2@ihs.gov


Carroll Onsae
General Manager
Hopi Utility Corporation
6 East Aspen Avenue, Suite 240
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 522-8428
consae@hopitelecom

Mr. Onsae,

This letter can formally answer your questions today regarding the recommended arsenic mitigation alternative and the timeline for the revised Preliminary Engineering Report. In the 2014 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) four alternatives were considered for arsenic mitigation. The preferred alternative that was recommended with support from the Hopi Tribe and the Villages was the proposed regional water system to serve First and Second Mesa. There were many considerations that went into the selection of an alternative. IHS cited the greater operability, reliability, efficiency, simplicity, and cost effectiveness in the 2014 PER. IHS, the Hopi Tribe, Hopi Utility Corporation, and EPA still consider this the preferred alternative.

A courtesy review of the 2014 PER and supporting technical documents was performed by USDA at the request of the Hopi Tribe. There will be a revision to the 2014 Preliminary Engineering Report. In this revision, the recommended alternative will be the regional water system and supporting information will be provided. The Hopi Tribe has given its full support behind the proposed regional water system. There was a letter written on May 11, 2017 by the Hopi Tribal Chairman to USDA that supported a regional water system, not village well arsenic treatment systems. He gave multiple reasons for their support of the regional water system in that letter. EPA region 9 also has stated their support for the regional water system. IHS has committed to providing the Hopi Utility Corporation the revised PER on March 16th, 2018. Please let me know if this letter sufficiently supports your request.

Respectfully,


Digitally signed by James Carter - S
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James Carter